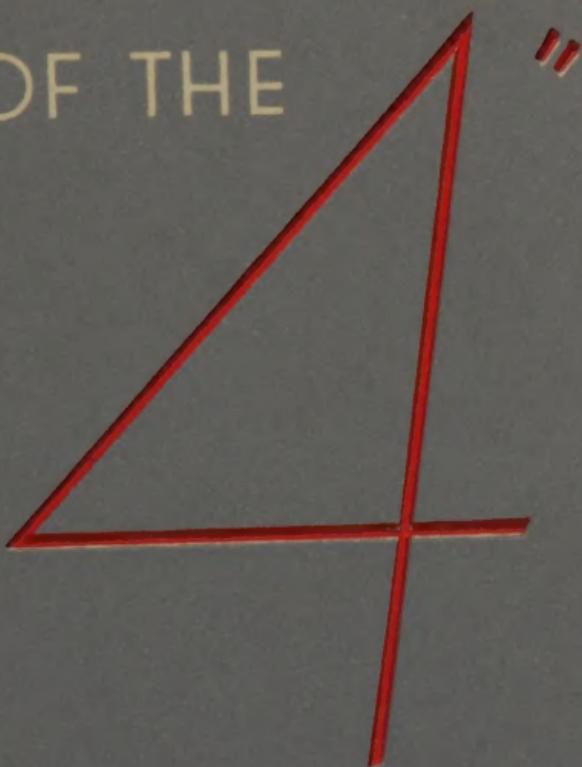
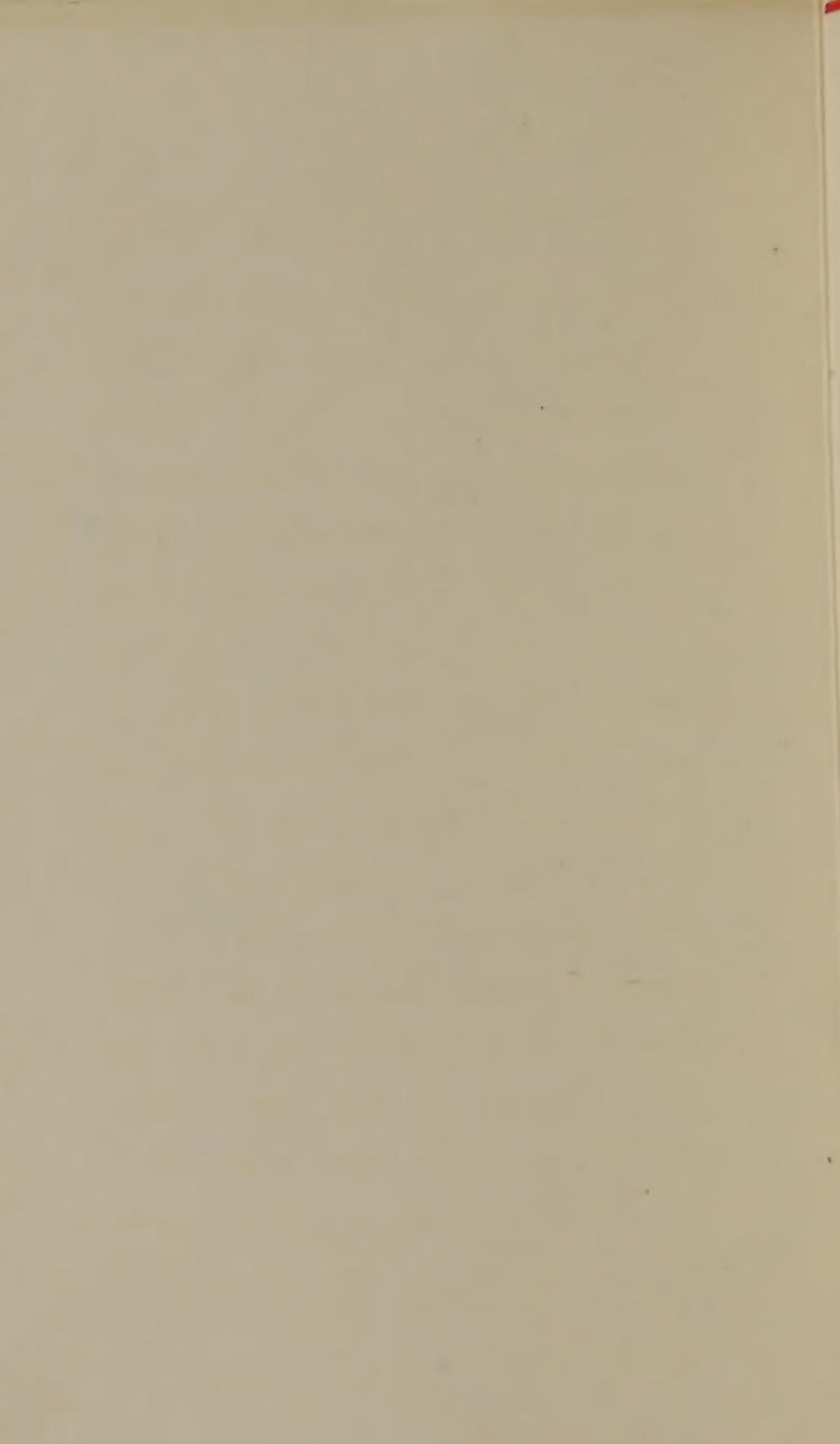


“THE MOST IMPORTANT
OF THE”





THE ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY

- The late Dr. William H. Welch, eminent pathologist of Johns Hopkins University, said: "I have been asked on more than one occasion what have been the really great contributions of this country to medical knowledge. I have given the subject some thought and believe that four should be named: (1) the discovery of anesthesia; (2) the discovery of insect transmission of disease; (3) the development of the modern public health laboratory in all that the term implies; (4) the Army Medical Library and its Index-Catalogue. This library and its catalogue are the most important of the four."

- In 1836, during Andrew Jackson's second term, Surgeon General Lovell started the small collection of books which is today known as the greatest medical research library in the world.
- The Army Medical Library's collection includes 513 medical incunabula. Of some works, it has the only known copy. There is a collection of early manuscripts from European and Oriental sources and an extensive collection of rare sixteenth and seventeenth century medical works.
- There are theses published at the University of Paris (considered to be the most complete collection in existence); a vast collection of vital statistics; and a medical art

collection including some 10,000 items, with references to more than 50,000 portraits and illustrations.

- Material of clinical importance flows into the Library from nearly every country in the world. Russian publications, Chinese periodicals, Icelandic, Turkish, Hungarian, Croatian, Portuguese, Dutch, Swedish, and Spanish monographs and journals all make their contribution to the Library's collection. Over 3500 serial titles are regularly recorded. In all there are over a million items of which more than 500,000 are bound volumes.
- It has been well said that books are properly compared to tools of which the index is the handle. This

wealth of medical knowledge has been made accessible through the Index-Catalogue conceived by the first Librarian, Colonel John Shaw Billings.

- Basic bibliography of medicine since 1880, the Index-Catalogue has world-wide distribution. Its most recent volume covers 6000 medical and scientific subjects with a total of 105,000 references.
- Inter-library loans, bibliographical and photoduplication services make it possible for the doctor, wherever he may be, to have at his beck and call all of the Library's resources. Through these services over a half million pages of medical information per month are distributed to all parts of the world.

- Today's demands for greater medical knowledge have placed heavy responsibilities on the Army Medical Library. To meet these responsibilities and to provide proper housing for its ever expanding collection a new and larger building must be secured.
- Building plans have been drawn adequate to meet these needs. The site has been approved. An organization of sufficient strength to carry forward has been planned.
- The Army Medical Library looks forward to the time when it will become a part of the proposed group of cultural and research centers with the Folger Library and the Library of Congress on Capitol Hill. Thus will be pro-

vided in one central location the greatest assemblage of means for cultural research that the world has ever known.

- All efforts are directed toward bringing about the success of these plans. This great medical research library must continue to build and interpret its collection in support of medical progress.
 - The Army Medical Library looks forward to new horizons in library service, for all who work for the betterment of mankind through the prevention of disease and the alleviation of human suffering.
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Army Service Forces
Medical Department

Major General Norman T. Kirk
The Surgeon General

The Army Medical Library
7th Street and Independence Ave., S. W.
Washington, D. C.

Colonel Leon L. Gardner,
M.C., U.S.A.
The Director

Mr. Wyllis E. Wright
The Librarian

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